

For More Information

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Website

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Washington State
Department of Transportation

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Washington State
Department of Transportation

Local Comprehensive Plans and WSDOT



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Transportation is one of the required elements of a Comprehensive Plan and linked to virtually all the other elements of the plan. The transportation element is a critical part of envisioning and implementing your community’s goals for the next 20 years. WSDOT’s staff are available to assist your community in the development of your transportation element in a number of ways including:

Plan Development

WSDOT recognizes that each community will have unique circumstances and issues to be addressed in its comprehensive plan processes. Transportation issues thread throughout a plan from economic development to land use. For example, selecting a location for a new industrial park can be a significant factor in the transportation element.

Data and Information

WSDOT has data and resources that may be useful for your community’s inventory and analysis process such as traffic data, highway functional class data and maps. Using this information can help reduce time and costs. We can help identify datasets that will support your planning process.

State and Local Coordination

WSDOT can identify state transportation projects early in your process that may affect your community’s plan. Exchanging planning information will help to foster longer term relationships between WSDOT and your agency.

Transportation Planning Assistance...

WSDOT's offers supplemental planning assistance to local agencies to prepare corridor, sub-area and project plans that may be incorporated into local comprehensive plans.

This transportation planning assistance may support public meetings, preliminary designs, and project development.

For more information, please see WSDOT region contacts listed at the end of this brochure and visit our website at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/ta/operations/localplanning



Plan Development in Walla Walla

Requirements

Statutory requirements for the transportation element of local comprehensive plans are found in Chapter 36.70A.70 of the Revised Code of Washington. WSDOT's staff offer assistance and guidance on transportation issues that should be considered in development of your transportation element. The following sections outline some suggested questions to review when updating your transportation element...

General Issues

- Does the plan meet the minimum requirements outlined in RCW 36.70A.70?
- Is the planning period (ten year forecast) adequately addressed?
- Is the transportation element reflective of the other sections of the plan (e.g., economic development, land use)?
- Does the transportation element cover all modes?

- Has there been coordination with neighboring communities, relevant agencies and organizations?
- Are development and design strategies discussed in relation to transportation needs (e.g., conservation subdivisions, traditional neighborhood developments, context sensitive design)?
- Does the plan include steps or procedures to assess the impacts of development proposals on transportation?

Coordination Issues

- Is your transportation element coordinated with regional transportation plans, regional land use assumptions, neighboring community plans, and Washington's Transportation?
- Does the plan include both state and local transportation system needs?

Multi-Modal Issues

- Does the plan include an inventory of all air, water and ground transportation facilities?
- Does the plan address modal connections issues such as pedestrian access to ferries or buses, roadway connectivity near airports, or freight connectivity near transfer centers?
- Are community goals for all modes of transportation discussed?
- Have land use compatibility issues been discussed in relation to modal facilities like freight distribution centers, airports and train stations?
- Does the plan consider impacts of various modal decisions (e.g., transportation services for an aging population)?



Access Management Issues

- Does the plan address driveway spacing, median breaks, pedestrian safety, shared driveways, or other access management techniques?
- Are there current or future access concerns along streets and roads?



- Are proposed land uses compatible with safety and mobility needs?

Local Streets and Roads

- Does the future street/road network meet the existing and future level of growth and development proposed in the plan?
- Are the existing road conditions such as pavement, safety issues, bridge width and condition identified?
- Does the plan address rail/highway crossing safety?
- Does the plan address the need to maintain a local grid system?
- Does the plan address the need for provisions for all modes?
- Does the plan require an assessment of any significant development proposal's impacts on the road system?



Resources

Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED)
www.cted.wa.gov

WSDOT's Local Transportation Planning Assistance
www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/Operations/LocalPlanning

Local Government Commission
www.lgc.org/transportation

Municipal Research and Services Center
www.mrsc.org

PlannersWeb
www.plannersweb.com/articles/compplan-articles.html

Project for Public Spaces
www.pps.org

Smart Growth Network
www.smartgrowth.org

Publications

CTED – Transportation and Land Use Issue Paper
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ta/operations/localplanning/pdf/02tlu.pdf

Guide to Smart Growth and Cultural Resource Planning
www.doa.state.wi.us/dir/documents/cultural_guide.pdf

Making Streets Safer for Seniors on Foot
www.hsrc.unc.edu/pdf/pedbike/strsaf.pdf

Performance Measures for Sustainable Transportation
www.vtpi.org/wellmeas.pdf

Planning for Transportation in Rural Areas
www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/rural/planningfortrans

Smart Growth Principles
www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/default.asp

Tools to Create Livable Communities
www.lgc.org/freepub/PDF/Land_Use/fact_sheets/neighborhood_planning.pdf